

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for provisioning a telephone service feature, the method comprising:

receiving a call request to establish a telephone connection between a calling party and a called party;

if the call request identifies a telephone service, determining whether one of a plurality of telephone service features identified in the call request can be temporarily provisioned to at least one of the calling party and called party;

if the call request does not identify a telephone service feature or a determination is made that an identified telephone service feature can not be temporarily provisioned, presenting to at least one of the calling party and the called party a list of other telephone service features that can be temporarily provisioned to either the calling party or the called party, wherein the list is presented in at least one graphical user interface on at least one display of at least one device used by at least one of the calling party and the called party;

if a telephone feature is identified and can be temporarily provisioned, temporarily allocating telephony system resources to support said identified telephone service feature for the duration of a call over an established telephone connection;

temporarily activating said identified and temporarily provisioned telephone service feature for the call;

deactivating said activated telephone service feature upon completion of said call;
and

reallocating said telephony system resources in response to completion of said call.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a call request identifying a telephone service feature to be temporarily provisioned for the duration of an already-connected call; and
determining whether said identified telephone service feature can be provisioned within a telephony network for a call serviced by a particular exchange carrier.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising allocating line interface circuits capable of providing said requested telephone service feature.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said allocating step further comprises:
reserving a pool of resources for activating said identified telephone service feature; and
selecting from said reserved pool of resources, an available resource capable of processing said identified telephone service feature.
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein said selecting step further comprises the step of multiplexing said available resource onto existing telephony service in order to support said call request for said identified telephone service feature.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said telephone service feature is a feature selected from the group consisting of a caller ID feature, a three-way calling feature, a call waiting feature, a call hold feature and a call forwarding feature.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a computer for causing the computer to perform the steps of:

receiving a call request to establish a telephone connection between a calling party and a called party;

if the call request identifies a telephone service, determining whether one of a plurality of telephone service features identified in the call request can be temporarily provisioned to at least one of the calling party and called party;

if the call request does not identify a telephone service feature or a determination is made that an identified telephone service feature can not be temporarily provisioned, presenting to at least one of the calling party and the called party a list of other telephone service features that can be temporarily provisioned to either the calling party or the called party, wherein the list is presented in at least one graphical user interface on at least one display of at least one device used by at least one of the calling party and the called party;

if a telephone feature is identified and can be temporarily provisioned, temporarily allocating telephony system resources to support said identified telephone service feature;

temporarily activating said identified telephone service feature for the call;

deactivating said activated telephone service feature upon completion of said call ;
and

reallocating said telephony system resources in response to completion of said call.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage according to claim 9, further comprising:

receiving a call request identifying a telephone service feature to be temporarily provisioned for the duration of an already-connected call; and

determining whether said identified telephone service feature can be provisioned within a telephony network for a call serviced by a particular exchange carrier.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage according to claim 9, further comprising allocating line interface circuits capable of providing said requested telephone service feature to a subscriber.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage according to claim 12, wherein said allocating step further comprises:

reserving a pool of resources for activating said identified telephone service feature; and

selecting from said reserved pool of resources, an available resource capable of processing said identified telephone service feature.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage according to claim 13, wherein said selecting step further comprises the step of multiplexing said available resource onto existing telephony service in order to support said call request for said identified telephone service feature.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage according to claim 9, wherein said telephone service feature is a feature selected from the group consisting of a caller ID feature, a three-way calling feature, a call waiting feature, a call hold feature and a call forwarding feature.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for temporarily provisioning a telephone service feature, the system comprising:

a controller, wherein said controller is configured to

receive a call request to establish a telephone connection between a calling party and a called party,

if the call request identifies a telephone service, determine whether one of a plurality of telephone service features identified in the call request can be temporarily provisioned to at least one of the calling party and called party, and

if the call request does not identify a telephone service feature or a determination is made that an identified telephone service feature can not be temporarily provisioned, present to at least one of the calling party and the called party a list of other telephone service features that can be temporarily provisioned to either the calling party or the called party, wherein the list is presented in at least one graphical user interface on at least one display of at least one device used by at least one of the calling party and the called party; and

an activator, said activator configured to activate an identified telephone service feature that can be temporarily provisioned so as to satisfy said received call request and to deactivate said required telephone service feature upon completion of said call.

18. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein said telephony resources comprise a reserved pool of communication processing circuits controlled by said controller.

19. (Original) The system according to claim 18, wherein each of said communication processing circuits further comprises a line interface circuit for providing said telephone service feature.

20. (Original) The system according to claim 19, further comprising a common multiplexed bus for connecting each of said line interface circuits to a transmission conduit.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 20, wherein said controller further comprises a multiplexer for multiplexing communication signals from said line interface circuits onto said common multiplexed bus.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for temporarily provisioning a telephone service feature, the system comprising:

a communications controller for receiving a call request to establish a telephone connection between a calling party and a called party,

if the call request identifies a telephone service, determining whether one of a plurality of telephone service features identified in the call request can be temporarily provisioned to at least one of the calling party and called party, and

if the call request does not identify a telephone service feature or a determination is made that an identified telephone service feature can not be temporarily provisioned, presenting to at least one of the calling party and the called party a list of other telephone service features that can be temporarily

provisioned to either the calling party or the called party, wherein the list is presented in at least one graphical user interface on at least one display of at least one device used by at least one of the calling party and the called party;

a pool of reserved communication processing circuits for activating and deactivating said identified telephone service feature; and

a multiplexer for multiplexing an available communication processing circuit from said pool of reserved communication processing circuits onto a transmission conduit providing service to said called subscriber terminal for the duration of the call, said available communication processing circuit being reallocated to said pool of reserved communication processing circuits upon termination of the call.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 22, wherein said communications controller further comprises circuits and program logic for determining an available communication processing circuit from said pool of reserved communication processing circuits, and allocating said available communication processing circuit for processing said telephone service feature.

24. (Original) The system according to claim 23, further comprising a multiplexed bus for communicating telephony signals between each of said communication processing circuits and said called subscriber terminal through a transmission conduit.

25. (Original) The system according to claim 23, wherein said communication processing circuit is a line interface circuit providing local access service to said called subscriber terminal.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein after the activating step and before the deactivating step, a particular exchange carrier establishes a communication session for the call.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the activating and deactivating steps occur within a network element of a public switched telephone network.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified telephone service feature is a feature associated with a line-based telephone number serviced by the exchange carrier.